

## THE LINCOLN PLOT.

Samuel B. Arnold's Long-Delayed Revelation.

## COLLAPSE OF THE CONSPIRACY.

Booth, Practically a Madman, Ruled It to the End.

Further Story of the Plotters' Failures and the Scheme's Final Abandonment—Booth's Deed Then and Arnold's Arrest—Real Purport of His Letter, Found in the Assassination Trunk—Says Witnesses Were Bribed to Lie About the Plotters—His Prison Hardships.

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## CHAPTER V.

"During the entire month of February the project was at a standstill and I seldom met Booth. For the first time my situation dawned upon me and began to be felt deeply.

"Here I was without any kind of employment, wandering from place to place in my idleness, making frequent visits to Baltimore, watched, no doubt, and my footsteps dogged by the Government detectives and spies, who in various ways sought to obtain some clue as to my business and how engaged. This became insupportable, as I felt every eye was watching my movements, thereby making my position very insecure.

"After the Presidential election Booth worked energetically in the affair, and had completed all his arrangements, so he informed O'Laughlin and myself. He was always busy and in motion, having very limited time to hold conversation. I was unaware, even at this late date, that there were any others, beyond those spoken of before, who were connected with the affair.

"Prisoners were now being exchanged, so the purpose for which each had bound himself to the other and for which months of labor and time had been expended had been accomplished. Yet Booth still insisted upon carrying out the abduction. Patriotism had converged into heartless ambition on his part, and I looked upon him as a madman, and resolved, if the project were not speedily executed, to sever my connection with him."

"Mr. Arnold next recited at length, as detailed in his statement in 1867, of the meeting of the conspirators at Götter's saloon and there meeting for the first time Lewis Payne, George A. Atzerodt, and David E. Herold, who, with Arnold, Booth, O'Laughlin and Surratt, made up the private party of the saloon to discuss the abduction.

"Arnold said at this point that when Booth outlined the plans that his audience was seemingly carried away with his visionary ideas. Some few remarks of an objectionable character started a long discussion. The fact that the suspicions of the Government had seemingly been aroused from the fact that double stockades were being erected at the bridge crossing the Eastern Branch, on the Prince George's side of the river, which made the undertaking more difficult, even if executed, crowned the efforts made at the theatre, was taken into account, and advanced the idea of the utter impracticability of the whole plan. He says:

## THEY WERE SPELLED BY BOOTH.

"I stood not alone, yet none seemed to consider it in its proper light, they being completely spellbound by the utterance of Booth, not looking at the consequences which would follow. After arguing to great length, in fact, until the subject became exhausted and before any reasonable decision could be arrived at or rendered, it culminated in a very exciting and violent controversy between Booth and myself, the others silently looking on when Booth, in his rashness and madness, finding that he could not swerve me from my purpose and firm stand taken in the manner of its accomplishment, threatened to shoot me, or words to that effect.

"At this time it looked very much as if the meeting would be dissolved with serious consequences attending it, as two tubercular natured men and one of as decided a character as the other, when deeming the position assumed as right.

"However, it was finally settled and compromised without resorting to shooting, after which, in the presence of the entire company, I stated my determination and firm resolve to sever my connection with the affair in case it was not carried out during the week ending March 27th.

"Gentlemen, you have taught to fear from me in the matter, as I never would betray you."

## THUS HE HIM MAD, BUT RESISTED.

"The resolve to attempt to carry out the President from the hospital or imprisonment on Seventh street, where the Chief Executive failed to appear after the conspirators and their associates were taken on horseback, is dealt with again by Arnold at this point. The plan was to take the carriage of the President and all seated within it, drive it around the corner of Bidsburg, thence through the lower courts in the direction of Port Tobacco, cross the river at or near that point, and thence onward to Richmond.

## COMMENTING ON THIS PLAN, MR. ARNOLD SAYS:

"The most quixotic and visionary undertaking that ever entered the sane man's brain. I looked upon him as a madman, but made no objection, stating that we would be ready at the appointed time. Of all the ideas existing in a man's brain, this was the most foolhardy ever advanced, and we concluded that it was due to try the nerve of his associates. We looked upon him as a madman, yet could offer no objection, from the fact that we had given our word to assist him in it during the week.

## CARRIAGE SURPRISE PLAN FAILS.

"O'Laughlin, Payne and Arnold rode part of the way to the city in company, and Booth and Surratt went on out the road. What became of Atzerodt I am unable to state, as he was not present, but having been sent to T. B. or Surrattville by Booth's horses and buggy, conveying the box containing the two carbines and other minor articles.

"About 8 o'clock that same evening, O'Laughlin and myself met Booth and Surratt back of the National Hotel, at the stable where our horses had been placed, and from that day I never saw John H. Surratt until I met him a clerk at the Norfolk Line of steamers in Baltimore, some ten years ago.

"The interval allotted for carrying out the scheme expired, and O'Laughlin and myself severed all connection with Booth and his confederates, in fact, the general idea of the entire party was that the project was entirely abandoned, and we returned to our respective homes in Baltimore on March 30, 1865.

## BOOTH WANTED TO TRY AGAIN.

"But a few days had elapsed before Booth was again solicited by Surratt, with whom I paid not the slightest attention. On March 25, 1865, as he returned from New York to the city of Washington he stopped

In Baltimore, called at my father's to see me, but I was in the country. So he left a letter for me, and I found that he desired to try it once more, and, if unsuccessful, to forever abandon it.

"As requested, I called at Barnum's Hotel, but found he had departed. I, therefore, concluded that he had gone to Washington, which would be the best place for the communication of March 27, which proved so fatal in its bearings in my respective case.

## ARNOLD'S FATAL LETTER.

"The receipt of the letter was prevent, if possible, his undertaking. Whether he left this letter in his trunk to betray me, in my innocence, into the hands of the Government, through mail or forgetfulness, I cannot affirm, nevertheless it accomplished its end, and from this fact was forced to become a witness against myself."

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## NEWS OF THE MURDER.

"On the 15th of April, 1865, about 2 o'clock, whilst seated in the dining room at Mr. Wharton's at Old Point Comfort, Va., it became rumored that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. The news was confirmed by the arrival of a special messenger from Washington, who reported that the President had been shot on the 14th of April, and that the assassin was John Wilkes Booth.

"It was not until the following day that any clue had been obtained to the person who had committed the crime. The public mind became gradually impressed with the idea that John W. Booth was the man who had committed the crime. This was confirmed by the arrival of a special messenger from Washington, who reported that the President had been shot on the 14th of April, and that the assassin was John Wilkes Booth.

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I deal alone with truth, acts of heartless inhumanity, cruelty and tyranny meted me by the Government of the United States before any charge as yet had been preferred against me (with all the best reasons adopted to secure it) had been established in the case of any.

## HE ACCUSES STANTON.

"From the period of my arrest until April 18, 1865, whilst I was under the charge and custody of Col. Woolley, my treatment was conducted upon principles of humanity and kindness. It was not until I was turned over to the custody of the commanding officer at Fort McHenry that harsh and cruel measures were resorted to, from orders and threats emanating from Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. I was placed in a lathouse and filthy cell, branded by suspicion as a felon, rolled off my dignity, residing under the charge of being implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

## "THIS WAS OF SUFFICIENT TORTURE TO ONE WHO POSSESSED A SENSITIVE NATURE."

"This was of sufficient torture to one who possessed a sensitive nature without the additional acts of inhumanity heaped upon me.

## PUT IN A DUNGEON.

"There happened to be a Confederate prisoner of war, who was in small cells back of the one in which I was confined. I recognized his voice, we having been friends and companions from our earliest youth, and entered into conversation with him.

"This fact was reported by the sergeant of the guard to the chief of the day, and forthwith I was taken from my cell, brought before the one he occupied, carefully searched, this making some half dozen times in all, the custody of the commanding officer, who interrogated me to his heart's content, becoming as wise in the matter as I was in the matter of the conspiracy.

"I was committed to my cell, and I was told that if I refused to give up the conspiracy, I would be hanged. I was told that if I refused to give up the conspiracy, I would be hanged. I was told that if I refused to give up the conspiracy, I would be hanged.

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## EXPECT THE TUNNEL TOWN.

SUPPORTERS FORESEE A CHANGE BEFORE NEXT TUESDAY.

## It's Up to Tammany Hall, Says W. F. King.

"Albany Herald," N. Y., Dec. 10.—Confronted by his two wives, Private Luke D. Reesor, who up to the last moment had protested his innocence, pleaded guilty when brought into the court room on Tuesday for trial. Judge Beatty, who is holding a regular term of the County Court, sentenced the prisoner to five years in Sing Sing.

Reesor is about 30 years of age. For eight years he has been in the service of the United States as a member of the Engineers Corps. Nearly three years ago he was located at Willets Point, and while there he was married to Marie L. Green, a pretty girl of twenty summers. They were married on June 20, 1900, at College Point by the Rev. Frank Malven. The young wife had about \$1,500, a gold watch and a lot of fine jewelry when she married Reesor. This property the husband soon squandered, and at the end of a year he was transferred to West Point, leaving his wife destitute.

While at West Point he became infatuated with Marion Adele Wood, daughter of a wealthy family, a resident of Highland Falls and a retired army officer. Reesor and Miss Wood were married on April 9, 1902, by the Rev. Herbert Shipman, a Wesleyan minister. Shortly after this second marriage Reesor was assigned to duty in Washington, and the last wife went with him to that city, remaining with him until his arrest. She then returned to the home of her parents at Highland Falls. She had not lost her faith in her husband, however, but visited him frequently during his confinement.

When Reesor was brought into court on Tuesday afternoon both women were greatly affected, one because of the crime and the other because of the loss of her husband. The judge, however, was not moved by the sight of the women, and the case proceeded to the man's plea.

Reesor's defense was made by his attorney, who argued that his client was a man of good character and that he had been misled by a woman. The judge, however, was not moved by the defense, and sentenced Reesor to five years in Sing Sing.

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## FIVE YEARS FOR BIGAMY.

Private Reesor Sentenced for Marrying Two Women Within Two Years.

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## Waltham Watches.

"Come what come may," A Waltham Watch runs through the roughest day.

"The Perfect American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

American Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass.

## FOR SEVEN-STORY SCHOOLS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TAKES UP A NOVEL PROPOSITION.

May Build Tall School Houses Where Sites Are Costly—Considering One New Near Essex Market—Hears of a Conspicuous Junior—Defers Grout.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Education yesterday, Commissioner Lummis said that the committee on sites proposed to make an important departure in the matter of school buildings by constructing some of the new buildings seven stories high instead of four stories as has been the custom. It intended to do this in the thickly populated parts of the city where real estate comes high.

Such a building, Mr. Lummis said, would accommodate about 5,000 children. The city is obliged to pay nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars for some sites, and it would be a great saving of money to erect a seven-story building. The committee had in mind such a building not far from the Essex Market police court. Architects and other good authorities had approved the proposed high schoolhouses, he said, and they would be a success.

Discussion of the proposal went over to the next meeting. When the matter of giving permission to the Public Education Association to continue using the public school in West Twenty-eighth street for Sunday afternoon concerts came up, Superintendent Maxwell entered a protest against making such use of the school.

"The schools are not intended for outside people and, besides, it is not right that these concerts should draw the people from the churches and the Sunday schools," said he. "I am opposed to entertainments in the schools which will lessen the attendance in the churches."

"I have been to those school Sunday concerts, and if Mr. Maxwell understood them better, he would not have spoken that way," rejoined President Burghard. Commissioner Guy asked for an opportunity to be heard by the committee to protest against the school being used for such a purpose.

"The schools are for the people of every religion and of no religion at all, and it seems to me the concerts are not detrimental to the churches," declared Gen. Wingate.